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Message Text

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ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 EA-09 ISO-00 CAB-05 FAA-00 DOTE-00 IO-10 CU-04

CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 AID-05 /048 W
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R 180940Z DEC 75
FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO
TO HICOM TERPACIS SAIPAN MARIANA ISLANDS
INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 5615

UNCLAS TOKYO 17990

FOR HICOM AND STATUS LNO

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: JA, TQ
SUBJECT: JAPAN-MICRONESIA ASSN PROPOSAL FOR CHILDRENS EXCHANGE TOUR

1. JAPAN-MICRONESIA ASSOCIATION (JMA) WISHES TO SPONSOR A "CHILDRENS'

EXCHANGE TOUR" BETWEEN JAPAN AND PALAU. THEY PROPOSE TO FLY APPROX 110 JAPANESE CHILDREN AGED 9 TO 15 TO PALAU FOR ONE WEEK OF HOME VISITS, SPORTS, CONCERTS AND FUN IN THE SUN, AND SIMILAR GROUP OF PALAUAN CHILDREN TO JAPAN FOR A TASTE OF LIFE IN TOKYO.

2. JMA OFFICIALS FLOATED NOTION WITH PALAU CONGRESSMAN NAKAMURA, SENATOR SALII, AND STATUS LNO BERGESEN ON THEIR RECENT VISITS TO TOKYO, AND HAVE BRIEFED EMBOFF PERIODICALLY. THEY SAY NAKAMURA HAS REPORTED GENERAL ENTHUSIASM IN PALAU FOR THE SCHEME. ACCORDINGLY JMA HAS DECIDED TO SEND LETTER TO HICOM FORMALLY PROPOSING CHILDRENS' EXCHANGE TOUR AND TO SEND A FEW REPRESENTATIVES TO PALAU, THEN SAIPAN,

DURING NEW YEAR HOLIDAY FOR FURTHER REFINEMENT OF PLAN THROUGH DUSCISSION WITH TTPI OFFICIALS AND LOCAL LEADERS.

3. CRITICAL TO PLAN'S FEASIBILITY IS PERMISSION TO USE ALL NIPPON AIRWAYS (ANA) CHARTER FLIGHT (BOEING 727) FOR TRANSPORTATION OF CHILDREN. ANA, LARGEST JAPANESE DOMESTIC CARRIER, IS CORPORATE
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MEMBER OF JMA AND IS WILING TO PROVIDE TRANSPORTS ON NON-PROFIT

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BASIS. JMA LETTER WILL ASK HICOM FOR INDICATION THAT CHILDRENS' EXCHANGE IN GENERAL,AND USE OF ANA CHARTER IN PARTICULAR, WILL BE FAVORABLY CONSIDERED. JMA REPS WILL REQUEST MEETING WITH TTPI STAFFERS ON SAIPAN JANUARY 5 FOR FURTHER DISCUSSION. IF JMA IS ENCOURAGED TO PROCEED WITH ARRANGEMENTS, EMBASSY UNDERSTANDS ANA WILL THEN APPLY TO CAB FOR PERMISSION TO STAGE CHARTER FLIGHT.

4. COMMENT: JMA PLAN APPEARS TO EMBASSY TO BE A WINNER AND WE HOPE HICOM WILL ENCOURAGE JMA TO PUSH AHEAD WITH ITS PLANNING. WE WILL WISH TO REVIEW DETAILS, WHEN AVALABLE, BEFORE MAKING FINAL RECOMMENDATION TO HICOM. HOWEVER, RESOUNDING SUCCESS IN JAPAN OF SATAWALESE CANOE VOYAGE TO OKINAWA EXPO REINFORCES EMBASSY'S CONFIDENCE THAT JAPANESE CAN CARRY OFF CHILDRENS' EXCHANGE AS WELL WITHOUT MISHAP, AND WITH GREAT DEAL OF GOOD PUBLICITY FOR TTPI. JMA VIEW THIS VENTURE AS EXPERIMENT; IF SUCCESSFUL, IT HOPES TO ARRANGE EXCHANGES WITH OTHER DISTRICTS IN FUTURE.
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